

REMARKS

The present application is a continuation application based on a co-pending application (Serial No. 10/134,003) that was filed as a “divisional” based upon a grandparent application (Serial No. 09/788,953, now abandoned). Through the filing of this continuation application and the submission of the present Preliminary Amendment, applicants have reverted to the subject matter that was pursued in the foregoing grandparent application, Serial No. 09/788,953, now abandoned. Applicants have amended the title of the application consistent with the revised claim scope.

Through this Preliminary Amendment, applicants have amended the claims in a manner that is believed to patentably distinguish over the art relied upon in rejecting (final rejection) the claims in the foregoing grandparent application (Serial No. 09/788,953, now abandoned). Such rejections were advanced under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on the following references:

- U.S. Patent No. 4,156,539 to Davidson et al.
- U.S. Patent No. 6,231,952 to Lipper
- U.S. Patent No. 4,594,276 to Relyea et al.

Applicants respectfully submit that the proposed claim amendments find ample support in the specification, as originally filed, and that no new matter has been introduced by way of this Preliminary Amendment. Moreover, applicants respectfully submit that the outstanding issue under 35 U.S.C. §112 with respect to dependent claim 3 has been obviated by the proposed claim amendment thereto. Entry of the proposed claim amendments is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the subject application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Basam E. Nabulsi

Reg. No. 31,645

Attorney for Applicants

McCarter & English, LLP
Four Stamford Plaza
107 Elm Street
Stamford, CT 06902
203-965-0601 (phone)
203-323-6513 (fax)

HARTFORD: 604163.01